

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142760

FOLL REPEAT MOGADISCIA 853 ACTION SECSTATE 17 JUN 75:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0853

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET BASE ISSUE: INVITATION TO US CONGRESSMEN

REF: MOGADISCIO 0840

1. ONE EVENING OF JUNE 16, I SPOKE WITH MOFA DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL MOHAMED OSMAN, WHO TRIED TO CLARIFY FURTHER SIAD'S INVITATIONS TO US CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS TO VISIT BERBERA (MOGADISCIO 840). HE SHED LITTLE LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT. OSMAN WASN'T CERTAIN INVITATIONS HAD YET GONE OKT END WAS ALSO UNDER IMPRESSION INVITATIONS WOULD ALSO BE EXTENDED TO DEPT. OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS AND OTHERS IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID INVITATIONS MIGHT BE SENT THROUGH US EMBASSY CHANNEL IN MOGADISCIO OR TO ADDOU IN WASHINGTON.

2. OSMAN PREDICTED THAT AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO DELEGATION IMMEDIATELY ON ARRIVAL AND THAT THEY OSLD BE FREE TO GO WHERE THEY PLEASED -- BERBERA, CHISIMAYU, HARGEISA, CONFIDENTIAL

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ETC. THEY COULD COME WHEN THEY LIKED -- WITH OR WITHOUT ADVANCE

NOTICE. IN THAT WAY, GSDR COULD NOT BE ACCUSED OF STAGE-MANAGING INSPECTION TOUR OR HIDING AWAY MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. THERE WERE NO SOVIET BASES AT BERBERA AND GSDR HAD NOTHING TO HIDE, ETC.

3. I TOLD OSMAN THAT, IF THAT WAS INDEED THE CASE, WHY HAD GSDR STALLED ON REQUEST BY NAIROBI-BASED JOURNALISTS TO VISIT BERBERA?

4. OSMAN SAID SOMALI GOVT NOT RPT NOT PARTICULARLY RECEPTIVE TO NAIROBI-BASED NEWSMEN. PURPOSE OF GSDR INVITATION WAS TO BRING US CONGRESSMEN AND US OFFICIALS TO BERBERA FROM WASHINGTON, WHERE SOVIET BJSE ELLEGATIONS HAD ORIGINATED. GSDR HAD NOT RPT NOT GIVEN FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST FOR BERBERA VISIT FOR SAME REASON.

5. OSMAN ALSO ASKED IF I HAD RECEIVED RESPONSE TO GSDR NOTE OF PROTEST (MOGADISCIO 0821). I TOLD HIM THAT REPLY NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE CURIOUS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT BACKGROUND OF SIAD'S DECISION -- IF IT WAS IN FACT HIS DECISION -- TO INVITE US CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS TO SEE BERBERA FOR THEMSELVES. BOTH SIAD AND HIS ADVISORS ARE CAPABLE OF ASTONISHING MISCALCULATIONS IN CARRYING OUT THEIR POLITICAL WILL *ABORTED URB SUMMIT AND GUEURY KIDNAPPING ARE TWO MOST RECENT EXUMPLES THAT COME TO MIND) AND WE SUSPECT THAT INVITATION TO BERBERA MAY FALL IN SAME CATEGORY. RALTHOUGH SOME OBSERVERS MAY DETECT IN SIAD'S NVITATION SOME SHREWDNESS IN ATTEMPTING TO UNDERNUT SOVIET BASE CHARGES BY EXPLOCTING LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE DIVISIONS WITHIN USG, WE BELIEVE T MORE LIKELY THAT INVITATION WAS ONE OF REFLEX, RATHE

THAN CONSIDERED JUDGMENT, AND THAT WHILE PUBLIC INVITATION MAY SATISFY NEEDS OF MOMENT, IT WILL NOT RPT NOT IN ANY WAY RESOLVE SIAD'S ULTIMATE PROBLEM. INVITATION TO US CONGRESSMEN MAY REFLECT ARTEH'S SOLUTION TO PROBLEM -- OR EVEN THAT OF AMBASSADOR ADDOU -- BUT BOTH MEN ARE PROBABLY QUITE CONVINCED THAT SIAD HAS NOTHING TO HIDE AT BERBERA. SIAD WAS OF COURSE THE VICTIM OF SIMILAR MISINFORMED OPINION WHEN HE WAS PERSUADED TO TUCE HIS TOUR OF ARAB

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CAPITALS TO BRING THE SUMMIT TO MOGADISC O.
HAMRICK
UNQUOTE

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